8. **Customs.**—The gross revenue of the year fell from Rs. 12,81,000 to Rs. 12,56,000. In 1086, the revenue was so high as Rs. 13,23,000. About 93% of the revenue is derived from the export duty ; and the items which contribute most to the duty are the produce of the cocoanut tree. It has been calculated that about 75% of the Customs Revenue is derived from the export duty on the produce of the cocoanut tree alone. The Excise Commissioner has pointed out that the diminished output of the produce of the cocoanut tree has been one of the causes of the decrease in the Customs Revenue. The export trade in this produce fell from Rs. 169 lacs in 1087 to Rs. 159 lacs in 1088. This is a serious matter, and I cannot help thinking that it is, to no small extent, due to the inveterate habit of imagining that a cocoanut garden once planted out and come to maturity needs no further attention either by way of tillage or by way of manuring. Happily, the feeling among the ryots is slowly changing in this respect, mostly on account of the operations of the Agricultural Department. In regard to the export tariff generally, the policy of the Government has been gradually to reduce the list; for example, in 1085 the number of articles on the export tariff list was 24, and in 1088 it came down to 15. Before leaving this branch of the revenue, I should mention that the Salt, Abkari, Customs and Marine revenues, are managed by a single agency known as the Excise Department, the work of which has shown steady improvement since its present head, Mr. Raman Pillai, was appointed Commissioner—over five years ago. The Department has now reached considerable efficiency.

9. **Stamps.**—The revenue from Stamps reached the high figure of Rs. 17,99,000 during the year. This is a revenue which has been, for a long time, going up. It was Rs. 12,25,000 in 1082. The increase has been both under General and Court Fee Stamps. In a country where land is so valuable, land tenures so complicated, where there are such variations in the personal law of the different sections of the community, and last, but not least, where there is such a large amount of mutual distrust and want of confidence, and consequent increase of litigation, the Stamp Revenue is bound to go up.

PROTECTION.

10. **The Legislative Council.**—The number of Members of the Legislative Council was raised during the year from 10 to 15. The maximum allowed by law has now been reached, and no further increase is therefore possible. Out of the 15 Members of the Council, excluding the President, 8 are officials and 7 are non-officials, and of the 7 non-officials, four are appointed on the recommendation of the Assembly Members of the four main divisions of the State ; the fifth, representing the planting division of Devicolam, is generally appointed on the recommendation of the planters in that area ; and the other two are appointed by the Government to represent communities or interests which otherwise fail to secure representation. Since the last Assembly, Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi, who had been returned by the members of the Padmanabhapuram Division, vacated his seat, and Mr. R. Eswara Pillai, the representative of the Kottayam Division, has also just vacated his seat. His Highness the Maha Raja has commanded that the Members of the Kottayam and Padmanabhapuram Divisions shall now meet, under the presidency of their respective Dewan Peishkars, and elect representatives for their divisions, whose names should be submitted to His Highness for consideration. The most important piece of legislation passed during 1088 was Regulation I of that year, to define and amend the law of marriage, succession and family management among the Nairs. In regard to pending pieces of legislation, I would instance the Village Panchayat Courts Bill and the Co-operative Societies Bill, as fraught with possibilities of great good, if properly worked. Both these Bills now await final reading in the Council. In regard to the Bill to amend and define the rules of law applicable to intestate succession among Indian Christians, the Government cannot ignore the large diversity of opinion that has already manifested itself on the subject, nor can the Government undertake to pass a legislation like that except on the strength of a practical unanimity of feeling in the community affected.

11. **Police.**—The Police Department was thoroughly reorganised, at an additional cost of nearly a lac of rupees per annum. The most important feature of the

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reorganisation was the increase in the number of the charging stations and placing them all in charge of a new class of officers, Sub-Inspectors, who should ordinarily be graduates appointed straight on to the Department. The character of Police work is already showing signs of improvement, as the result of this substitution of the Sub-Inspectors in the place of the old Head Constables for the charge of stations. It is, however, inevitable that, with such a large number of new hands in charge of the stations, efficiency should suffer to some extent at the outset. As, however, the Sub-Inspectors pick up experience, the Government are sanguine that the work of the Police would improve in every way. The number of policemen prosecuted fell from 100 to 66; the percentage of conviction remained, however, practically unchanged, being 12, against 11 in the previous year. Vigorous action was taken during the year to detect cases of false coining—of Sirkar as well as of British Indian coins. 13 of such cases were reported during the year, of which 9 were disposed of and 4 were pending when the year closed; of the 9 cases disposed of, 4 cases ended in conviction and 5 in acquittal.

12. **The Central Prison.**—There was an increase in the number of prisoners, the average daily strength of the convicted prisoners rising from 423 to 468. The percentage of sick to strength fell, however, from seven to four, and the daily average of sick from 31 to 21. The number of deaths also fell from 24 to 12. Jail earnings showed improvement, the receipts rising from Rs. 43,000 to Rs. 67,500; the increase has been solely under Printing and Binding work. I should add, in explanation, that this work is done wholly for the departments of Government and that there can be no question, therefore, of any competition with private enterprise.

13. **Criminal Justice.**— The number of Criminal Courts rose from 64 to 67, the increase being due to the establishment of three more Stationary Magistrates' Courts, at Kottayam, Vycome and Mundakayam. And since the close of the year, two more Stationary Magistrates' Courts have been established, at Karunagapalli and Sherthallai. During the last six years, so many as 8 Stationary Magistrates' Courts have been newly opened for the purpose of relieving the Tahsildars, and in the result, several Tahsildars are now wholly free from magisterial work; and in the case of several others, the magisterial duties have been substantially reduced. The Government recognise that, in view to the large increase that has taken place in the work of Tahsildars in recent years, more relief is still due to them, and the policy of giving that relief—by the appointment of Stationary Magistrates—will be continued. While dealing with Criminal Justice, I would specially mention the fall in the number of juveniles brought to trial and convicted, and also the increasing percentage of them committed to the Reformatory. Again, in regard to public servants, the Government note with some satisfaction that the evil of the reckless prosecution of public servants has begun to show some abatement ; the number of public servants prosecuted fell from 202 to 147, the number convicted rising from 5 to 15. You could gauge the volume of the insecurity from the circumstance that, out of the 147 prosecutions, only 32 were initiated by the Government or heads of departments, the remaining 115 prosecutions having been started by private individuals ; out of the 32 Governmental prosecutions, so many as 11 ended in conviction, but only 4 cases ended in conviction out of the 115 private prosecutions. The Criminal Procedure Code Regulation has been recently amended and Magistrates are now competent to award compensation to the accused in warrant cases (as they already were in summons cases) where the prosecutions are frivolous. The volume of work done by the several Criminal Courts shewed no material change, but the work was done with somewhat greater expedition. Though the number of witnesses examined by the Magistracy rose from 37,890 to 40,314, the number detained beyond 3 days fell from 537 to 173.

14. **Civil Justice.**—The civil litigation of the State increased as usual—from 62,385 to 69,258. I am speaking of the *fresh* institutions. The increase was wholly in the original suits filed in the Munsiffs' Courts. The original suits filed in the District Courts fell slightly, and the appeal suits fell both in the District Courts and in the High Court. The Munsiffs' Courts were unable to keep abreast of the increasing volume of their fresh work; their arrears rose from 15,592 to 17,618 ; the number of suits of between one and two years' pendency on their file also rose, from 2,164 to 3,696, and that of more than two years' pendency from 286 to 355. The largest

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